



Media Release

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TAFE QUEENSLAND ANNOUNCES NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR MOUNT ISA

TAFE Queensland today announced it is working with Glencore's Mount Isa Mines, Mount Isa's biggest employer to deliver a suite of new training programs.

From early November, TAFE Queensland North will deliver the Certificate II in Automotive Air Conditioning Technology to Glencore employees and an accredited Hydrocarbon Refrigerant short course to Mount Isa Mines employees and any contractors for the mining industry.

Speaking from an industry meeting at the Granite Boulders on Wednesday 26 October, Chair of the Board of TAFE Queensland, Mr Warren Tapp and Mr Ron Eastburn, Coordinator of Mount Isa Mines' Copper Apprentice Program announced the new program offering.

Mr Tapp said the TAFE Queensland North team has been working with Mount Isa Mines to discuss their training needs and has developed this unique product offering to build local skills.

"We are very proud to be able to offer this new targeted training option for Mount Isa.

"Our team has been working with Mount Isa Mines, discussing its training needs and seeing what programs and short courses we can provide to help staff upskill.

"In early November we will deliver the Certificate II in Automotive Air Conditioning Technology to 10 Mount Isa Mines employees," Mr Tapp said.

Mr Tapp said the details of the Hydrocarbon Refrigerant short course were currently being finalised for roll out at the Mount Isa TAFE Queensland North campus.

"We also plan to deliver an accredited Hydrocarbon Refrigerant short course to 14 Mount Isa Mines staff. This course will also be opened up to contractors for the mining industry.

"In order to deliver this new course, TAFE Queensland North will be investing in new equipment.

"This commitment shows our enthusiasm for delivering quality training and supporting industry in the Mount Isa region," Mr Tapp said.

Mount Isa Mines representative, Mr Ron Eastburn said the new training programs will provide an exciting opportunity for the company's tradespeople to acquire new skills qualifications while helping the business maximise operational efficiencies and meet strict environmental standards.

"The introduction of the Hydrocarbon Refrigerant short course to our workforce provides the assurance that our operations will continue to perform in an environmentally sustainable way, including immediate



compliance with more stringent environmental requirements surrounding the disposal of hydrocarbons used in refrigeration or air conditioning units.

“The Certificate II in Automotive Air Conditioning Technology will be offered to our existing diesel fitters, and will result in a huge efficiency improvement across our operations while giving our tradespeople access to a valuable growth and development opportunity,” Mr Eastburn said.

Mr Tapp said TAFE Queensland is keen to continue to work closely with industry.

“I encourage industry, employers and the community to speak up if they believe that there is a gap in the training market for their business or industry.

“Armed with this knowledge, we can then assess the situation and develop a training solution,” Mr Tapp said.

To find out more about what is on offer at TAFE Queensland North call 1300 656 959 or visit www.tafenorth.edu.au

For more information, please contact:

TAFE Queensland North Public Relations Officer Sarah Weir on 4042 2746 or 0408 746 747.

Glencore Senior Community Relations Advisor, Lara Lavers on 4744 2955 or 0466 747 616.

Background on the event

As part of an overall strategy that ensures TAFE Queensland can address the future skills needs of the region, the TAFE Queensland Board holds forums with local industry across Queensland. Board meetings are regularly held in different regions across the State to support this connection with industry.

These forums provide valuable opportunities for employers and community organisations to discuss the region’s training priorities, local economic productivity issues and the challenges that industry will face into the future.